

LFU07- Deceased Cases

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1. Scope

- 1.1. Deceased person's prints are obtained for purposes of establishing or verifying the identity of a deceased person in Homicide Cases and Death Investigations. They can also be used for elimination purposes.

2. Background

- 2.1. Friction ridge impressions obtained from unknown deceased individuals may be compared with known exemplars and/or may be searched through the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) database to establish their identity.

3. Safety

- 3.1. Biohazard Labels are required.
- 3.2. Use gloves when there may be contact with blood and potentially infectious materials.
 - 3.2.1. Change gloves as needed

3.2.2. Wash hands after removal of gloves

- 3.3. Decedent prints should be in plastic bag and sealed with evidence tape as a safety precaution.

4. Materials Required

- 4.1. Deceased Fingerprint Cards
- 4.2. Deceased Palm Print Cards
- 4.3. Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)
- 4.4. Gloves
- 4.5. Bio-hazard stickers, if applicable
- 4.6. Butcher paper, if applicable
- 4.7. Disinfectant spray (10% hypochlorite and 70% ethanol), if applicable

5. Standards and Controls

- 5.1. Not applicable

6. Calibration

- 6.1. Not applicable

7. Procedures

- 7.1. All deceased prints will be treated as evidence and will be handled and stored according to LOM01. The analyst must ensure the packaging is marked as a biohazard.
- 7.2. The analyst will compare the submitted deceased prints against the known prints in AFIS using the same process used in LFU04.

- 7.2.1. If the identity of the deceased is known and a PDID is provided, the known prints may be retrieved from AFIS and a comparison is performed.
- 7.2.2. If the identity is unknown, then the analyst will search at least one of the submitted fingers through AFIS to attempt to establish their identity.
 - 7.2.2.1. The following databases may be searched; DCAFIS, NOVARIS, RAFIS, and FBI NGI.
- 7.2.3. Results will either be an identification, non-identification or inconclusive.
- 7.2.4. Documentation of the results will be completed on the Decedent Worksheet and will include the following information:
 - 7.5.1.1. True Name (Alias Name if applicable)
 - 7.5.1.2. Date of Birth
 - 7.5.1.3. PDID# assigned
 - 7.5.1.4. Identified by Sign and Date
 - 7.5.1.5. Verified by Sign and Date, if applicable
- 7.2.5. The analyst will create copies of the submitted deceased prints that were used for analysis and place them in the case folder along with the hardcopy known prints pulled from AFIS and used for comparison.
- 7.2.6. For all identifications the following will be done:
 - 7.2.6.1. A copy of the report will be sent to the MPD AFIS Section, for their records.
 - 7.2.6.2. The True Name, PDID and DOB may also be documented on the submitted deceased prints.
 - 7.2.6.3. The known prints of the decedent can be used for elimination purposes if there are latent prints in the case as well.
- 7.2.7. If the original decedent print records are to be removed from the original packaging, the evidence shall be removed and examined in room 2206 and treated as a biohazard. Proper PPE must be utilized when handling the evidence.
 - 7.2.7.1 Following the examination of the original evidence, the analyst shall decontaminate the examination area using a 10% hypochlorite solution followed by a 70% ethanol solution.

7.2.8 If the analyst captures the exemplar records without opening the outer packaging, they may do so using their desktop equipment. Upon completion, the scanner shall be decontaminated using a 10% hypochlorite solution followed by a 70% ethanol solution.

7.2.9. Storage

7.2.9.1. Since deceased prints are considered evidence, they will be stored securely in evidence storage.

8. Sampling

8.1. Not applicable

9. Calculations

9.1. Not applicable

10. Uncertainty of Measurement

10.1. Not applicable

11. Limitations

11.1. Major Case assignments will take priority and done in a timely manner.

12. Documentation

12.1. The following worksheet(s) shall be generated and managed:

12.1.1. Report of Examination

12.1.2. Decedent Worksheet

13. References

13.1. *DFS Health and Safety Manual* (Current Version)

13.2. *Forensic Science Laboratory Quality Assurance Manual* (Current Version)

13.3. *FSL Departmental Operations Manuals* (Current Versions)

13.4. *FSL Laboratory Operations Manuals* (Current Versions)

13.5. ASCLD/LAB Board, Minimum Latent Print Examination Documentation. Rev.ed.
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